

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

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We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees



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Note on the Historic Role of the Tree Protection Examining Board

For many years men have traveled about the State and in various places obtained work for the alleged improvement of orchard and shade trees, such as pruning, spraying, bracing, filling cavities, or applying fertilizers. In some cases good service was rendered and the owners were satisfied; in others no benefit resulted. Occasionally trees were positively injured by the treatment, because the so-called "tree doctors" did not know their business. Finally, this condition existed: tree work was being done by well-trained, intelligent and conscientious men; by poorly trained but reliable men and worst of all, by unscrupulous men who were usually, though not always, poorly trained. The unsatisfactory work of the unreliable men had a tendency to bring the whole business into disrepute. Some of them were at work here one day, but the next they would be gone, perhaps forever, only to be followed by a new crop. Even though such men guaranteed their work, the owner could obtain no redress because the men could not be found.

*From the "First Report of the Tree Protection Examining Board"
W. E. Britton, Chairman, June 30, 1921*

While our view of gender and its place in the workforce has clearly evolved over the years, basic human nature has changed little. Poorly trained and unscrupulous individuals are still out there, looking to take advantage of the public trust, and it is still necessary that government and right-minded people take action against these individuals. This is particularly true where professional activities are involved. When the actions of unreliable individuals have the ability to "bring the whole business into disrepute", it is especially important that members of a profession step forward to defend and protect that profession against those whose actions would call the profession into question in the public's mind and whose actions would cause harm to the public's interest at large.

For ninety years, the Tree Protection Examining Board has championed the cause of the proper practice of arboriculture in the State of Connecticut. The beneficiaries have not just been the licensed arborists, who have had their standards upheld, or the clients of arborists, who have had their trees better cared for, but the citizens of the state as a whole, who as a group have enjoyed the presence of healthier, safer trees within the landscape of our daily lives.

Submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association